

I am here to speak for people like my sister who was diagnosed with cancer with no health insurance, because she worked a part time low wage job. I read that about 450,000 Michigan residents would be helped by the Medicaid expansion. Had this program been in place when she was diagnosed, she would have had health care coverage and would not have had to worry about finding a way to pay for the care she needed.

The Medicaid expansion will also help hospitals like the one that cared for my sister. This expansion of Medicaid means revenues to hospitals instead of writing off the care they give to those who can't afford to pay. For many communities the hospital is one of the largest employers. That revenue means job stability for current employees or perhaps even the potential for future hiring.

As the jobs that we are being promised in this state begin to materialize and older workers move to Medicare, potentially fewer and fewer people will need these services by the time the state has to begin paying a portion of the cost, so we as a state will be able to afford the 5% or even 10% for those who still qualify. Unless our legislators don't believe the jobs are being created or that those jobs will pay a wage above 133% of poverty.

As a Christian my faith stresses caring for the poor. We have a moral obligation to care for those who cannot care for themselves. Our legislators get public funded health insurance, why shouldn't the rest of us have the health care we need, even if that means public funding for those who don't have the means to provide it for themselves.

Thank You,

Connie Glave